

# National Park Service



## Going-to-the-Sun Road Project Update

### Governor's Conference on Tourism & Recreation

April 2, 2007

EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA

Nature  
at its Best



# National Park Service



## Overview

- November 2006 Storm & Repairs
- 2007 Road Work / Schedule
- Transit System
- Other New Visitor Services

EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA

Nature  
at its Best



# National Park Service



EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA

## ‘Pineapple Express’ Nov. 7-8, 2006



Nature  
at its Best



# National Park Service



## November 2006: The Power of Nature

EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA



Nature  
at its Best





# National Park Service



## Many Glacier Valley

EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA



Nature  
at its Best



# National Park Service



**EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA**



**Baring Falls**



**Rising Sun Boat Dock**

**Nature  
at its Best**



# National Park Service



## Two Medicine Valley

EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA



Historic Boat House



Two Medicine Lake Dock

Nature  
at its Best



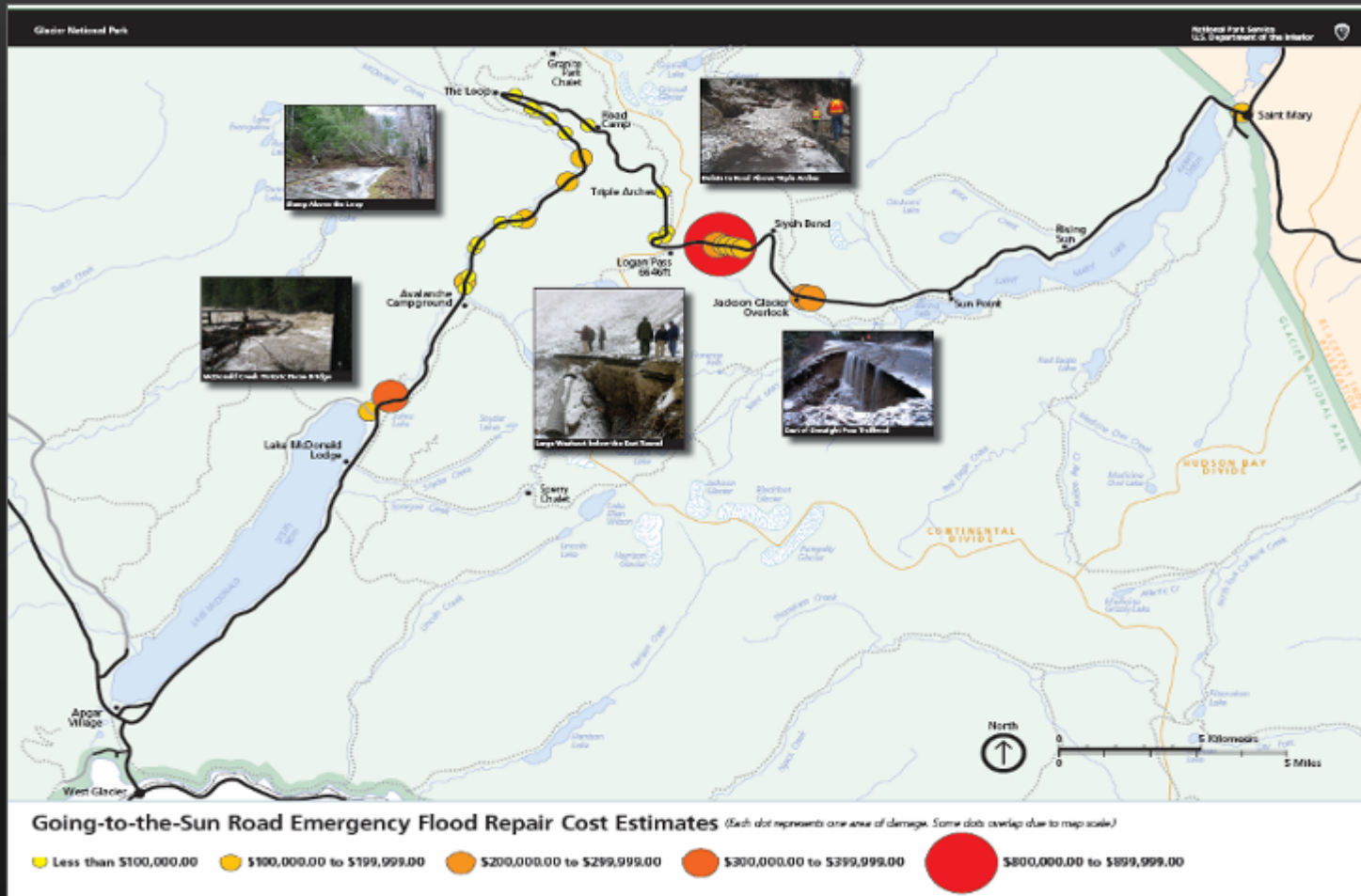


# National Park Service



## Preliminary Sun Road Storm Damage Assessment

EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA



Nature  
at its Best



Graphic Designed by Bill Hayden, NPS



# National Park Service



## Examples of Storm Damage

EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA



Nature  
at its Best





# National Park Service



EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA



Bridge over  
Swiftcurrent Creek



East of  
Gunsight Trailhead Pullout

Nature  
at its Best



# National Park Service



EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA



Nature  
at its Best

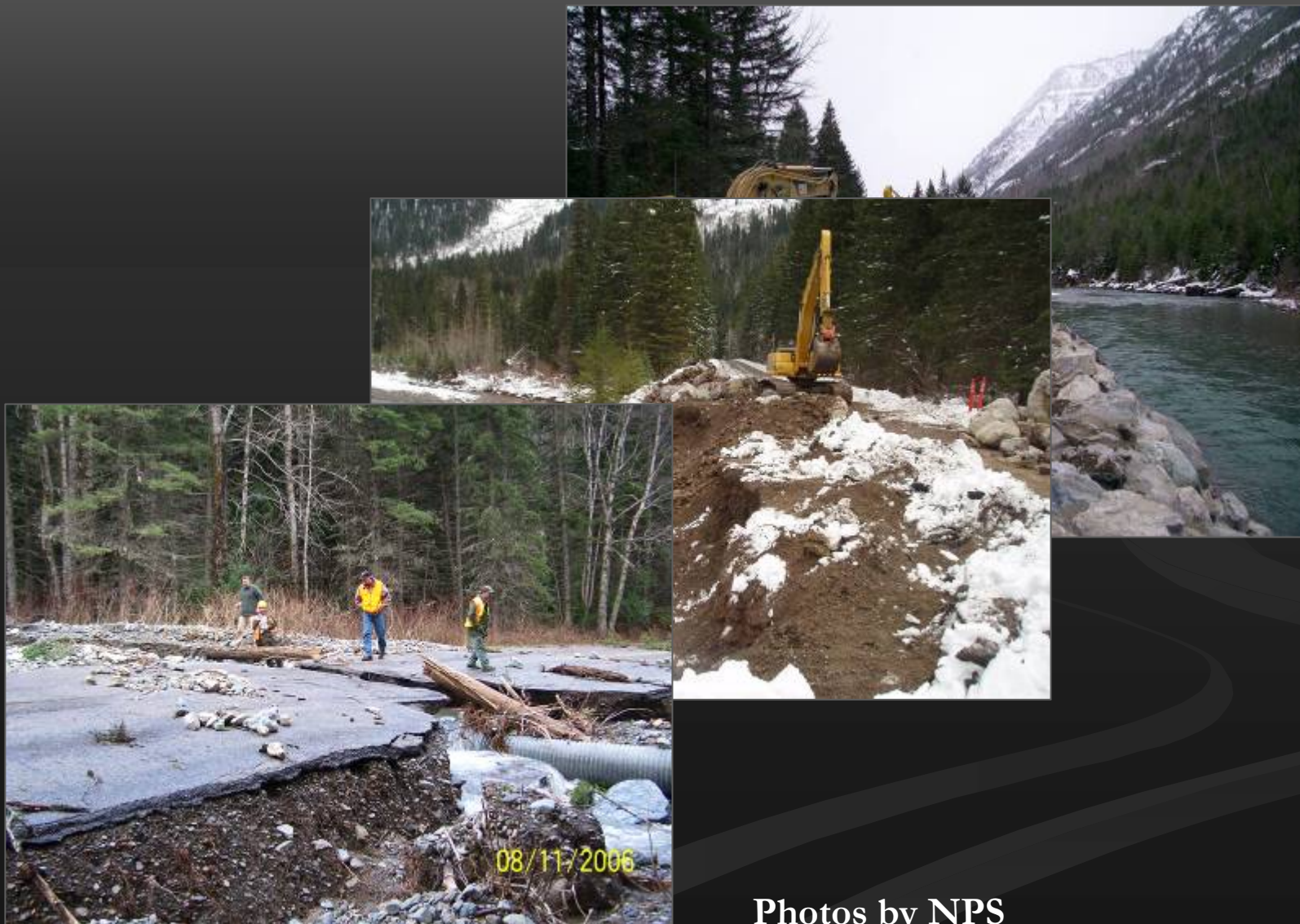




# National Park Service



EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA



Nature  
at its Best



Photos by NPS

# National Park Service



EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA



Nature  
at its Best



Examples of Temporary Bridge - Mabey & Johnson, Inc.



# National Park Service



**EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA**



**Nature  
at its Best**





# National Park Service



EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA



Cracker Lake Trail



Highline Trail

Nature  
at its Best



# National Park Service



EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA



Baring Creek Trail



Triple Divide Trail

Nature  
at its Best





# National Park Service



EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA

## Going-to-the-Sun Road Rehabilitation



Nature  
at its Best



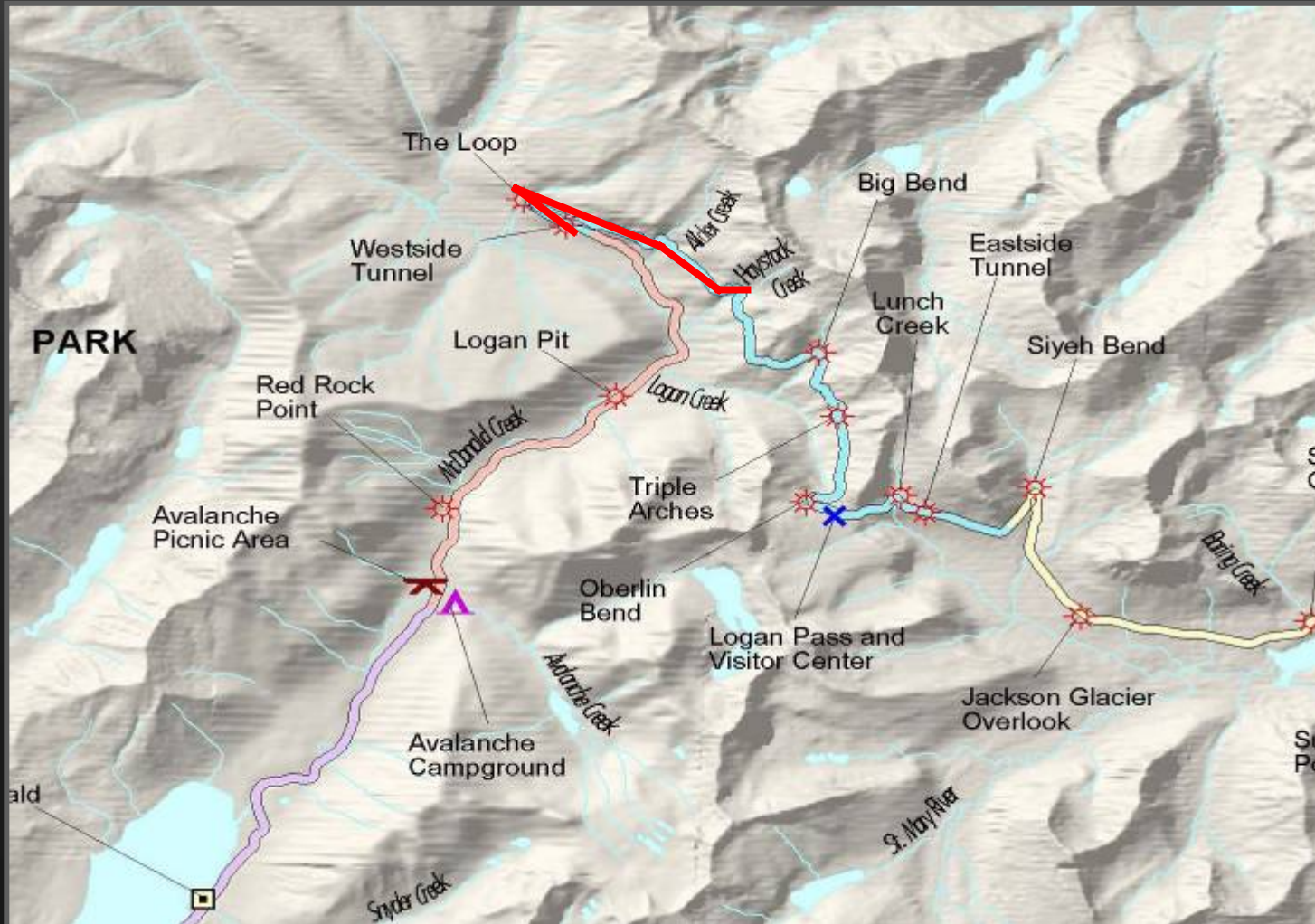


# National Park Service



## GTSR 2007 Rehabilitation Planning (West Tunnel to Haystack)

EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA



Nature  
at its Best



# National Park Service



EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA

## Work Season 2007-2010

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>SECTION OF SUN ROAD</u>	<u>SPRING</u>	<u>FALL</u>
2007	W. Tunnel - Haystack Creek	Fri., June 15	Mon., Sept. 17
2008	Avalanche Creek - W. Tunnel	Fri., June 13	Mon., Sept. 15
2009	Big Bend - Logan Pass	Fri., June 19	Mon., Sept. 21
2010	Haystack Creek - Big Bend	Fri., June 18	Mon., Sept. 20

Nature  
at its Best



# National Park Service



## Work Schedule Info

EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA

### ■ Multi – Year Contract:

- Selection by FHWA – mid-April 2007

### ■ Core Summer Season:

- Mid - June to Mid – Sept.
- Maximum of 30 minute delays
- Nighttime delays 10 pm to 6 am

### ■ Shoulder Season:

- Mid-Sept. to Mid-June
- Contractors allowed accelerated work opportunities
- Logan Pass accessible from one side

Nature  
at its Best





# National Park Service



EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA

## 2007 – Phase VI West Tunnel to Haystack Creek



Photo by John Schnaderbeck, FHWA

- 14 Retaining Walls
- 20 Culverts and Cross Drains
- Removable guardrail
- Horizontal drains
- Rock scaling and rock bolting
- Injection grouting for base stabilization
- 3770 linear ft of masonry guard wall
- 2165 yards<sup>2</sup> of masonry facing

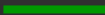


Nature  
at its Best

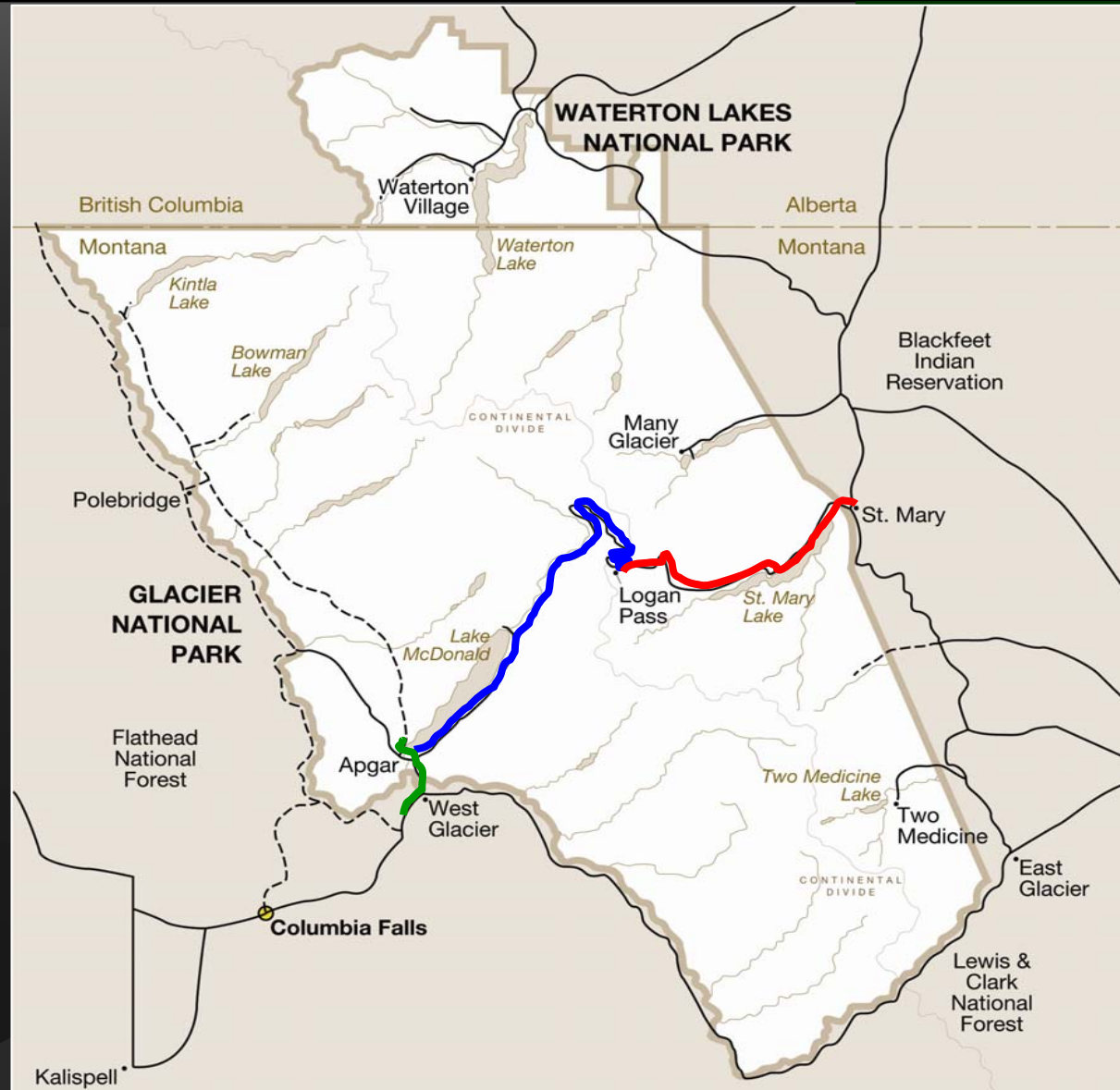


# National Park Service



## Transit Routes:

- Apgar – Fish Creek Loop (Green Route) 
- Lake McDonald Valley (Blue Route) 
- St. Mary Valley (Red Route) 
- 15 and 30 min. frequencies
- Timed transfers at Apgar, alpine to Logan Pass & St. Mary



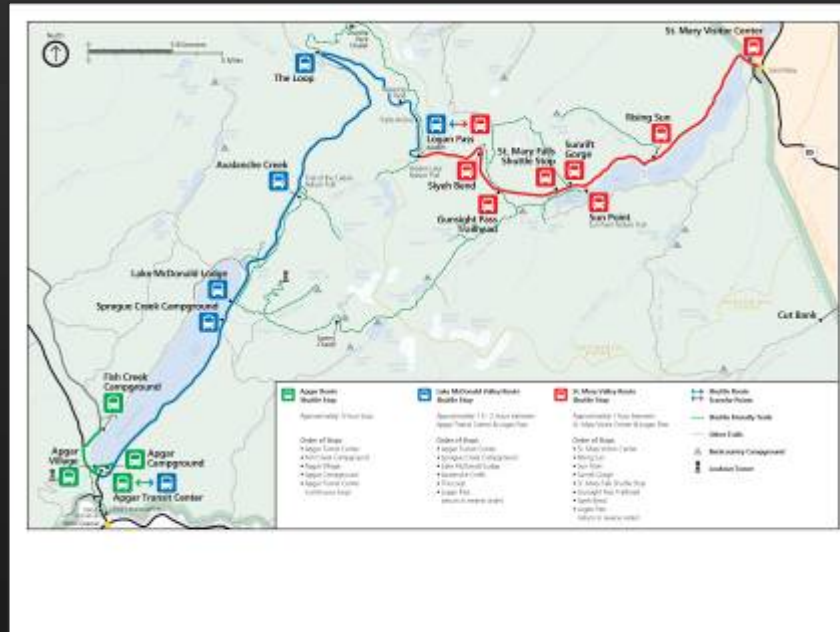


# Transit centers near Apgar Village & St. Mary VC

- Apgar Loop (green)
- Lake McDonald Valley (blue)
- St. Mary Valley (red)

- ## Transfer at Logan Pass

- 7 am to 11:30 pm
- 15 min & 30 min headways



# Nature at its Best



# National Park Service



**EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA**



Photo by Dave Yeats, NPS

- Remainder of Sprinter fleet arriving in Jan. 2007
- Large buses soon to be ordered for June 2007 arrival
- If large buses not available in time for summer; will lease for 2007

**Nature  
at its Best**





# National Park Service



EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA

- Transit System
  - Free (once entrance fee paid)
  - Unlimited use
  - No tickets
  - Step on – step off
- (22) 12-passenger vans for alpine section
- (8) 24-passenger buses
- 15 Stops:
  - 12 stops along Sun Road
  - Apgar & Fish Creek



Nature  
at its Best



# National Park Service



## Glacier is the Sum of its Part-nerhips

### ■ Three-way formal Cooperative Agreement:

- Montana Dept. of Transportation
- Flathead County Eagle Transit
- National Park Service

### ■ Joint purchase / ownership / operation of transit fleet:

- Buses will operate on Sun Road mid-June to Mid-Sept.
- Remainder of year, fleet will be operated in Flathead County and elsewhere in the state

EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA



Nature  
at its Best





# National Park Service



## Apgar Transit Center

EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA



Nature  
at its Best



# National Park Service



## Additional Visitor Services

EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA

- Apgar Transit Center
- St. Mary VC upgrades
- Wayside exhibits along Sun Road; transit center(s)
- Park orientation and trip-planning interactive kiosks
- Expanded public information & outreach



Photos/Graphic by David Restivo, NPS

Nature  
at its Best





# National Park Service



## Internet Features

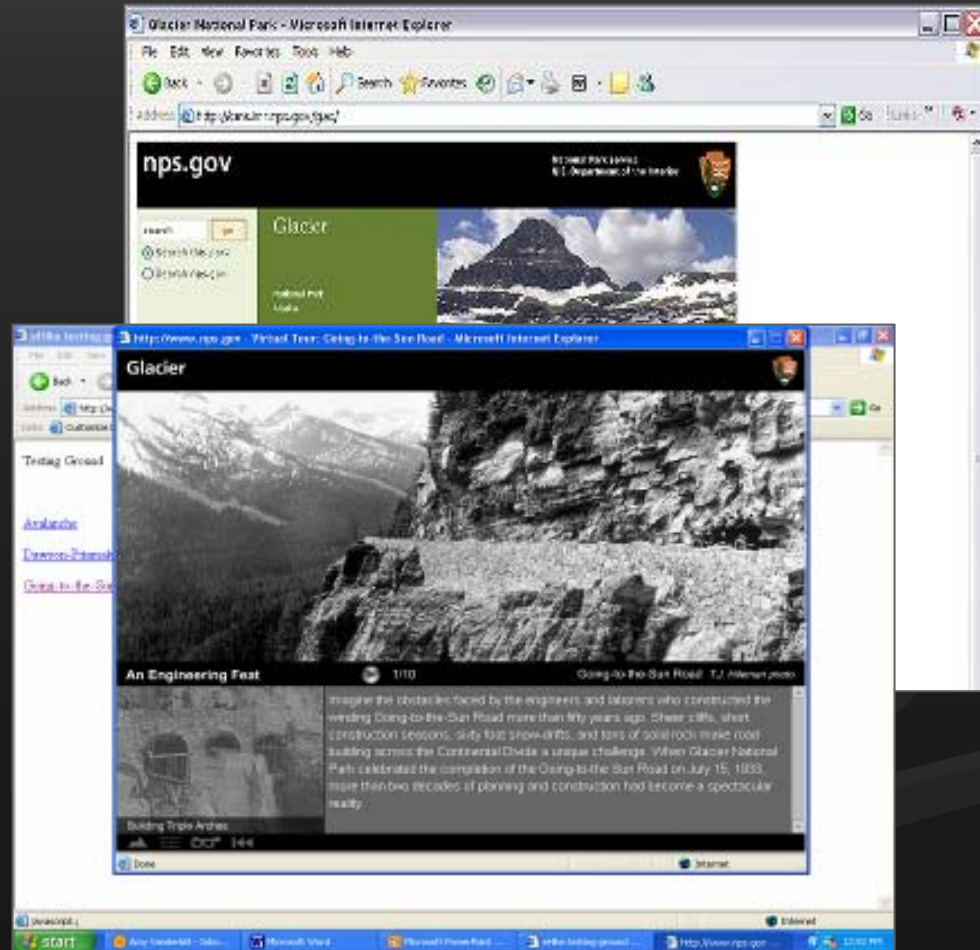
EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA

- Award-Winning Multi-Media Web Graphics:

- 'eTour'
- 'eHike'

- FAQs, weekly eBlast updates, fact sheets, blog, maps, etc.

- Future 'eTours' and 'eHikes' to be developed *after* transit center opens



Nature  
at its Best



# National Park Service



## Communications and Outreach

EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA



- Marketing:
  - Sun Road Shuttle
  - Sun Road Rehabilitation
  - Special Events
  - Trade Shows
- Public Information Services:
  - Media Outreach
  - Documentary film / DVD
  - Transit Schedules
  - Weekly 'eBlasts'
  - Press Kits
  - Collateral Materials
- Education & Training:
  - Stakeholder Outreach
  - Fact Sheets / Talking Points
  - Film / DVD

Nature  
at its Best





# National Park Service



EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA

## 2007 Public Information Ad

**GOING-TO-THE-SUN  
ROAD REHABILITATION**

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Glacier National Park  
Montana



*Come See It for Yourself!*


See some history in the making at  
Montana's Glacier National Park:

- New transit system
- New visitor services
- New exhibits
- Restoration of National Historic  
Landmark road
- Same incredible scenery





Learn more about the project: Online at [www.nps.gov/glac](http://www.nps.gov/glac)  
Call 406-888-7800 Throughout Montana; dial 511:  
Select option "5" for Glacier Tourist Information



- Travel Guides:
  - Travel Montana Vacation Planner
  - Flathead Convention & Visitor Bureau Travel Guide

Nature  
at its Best



Graphic by Wendt Advertising,  
Courtesy of Travel Montana

# National Park Service



## Public Roads Magazine

Nov - Dec 2006

EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA

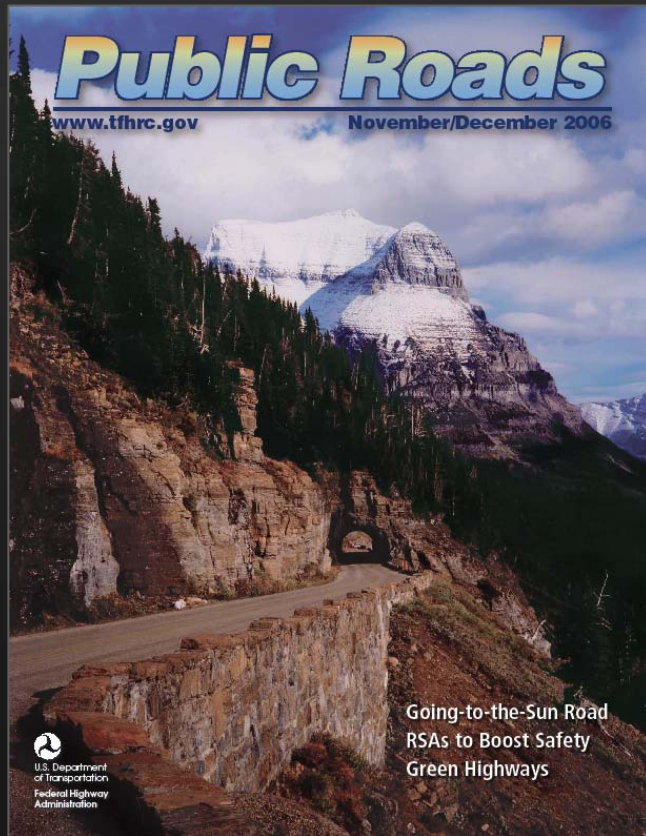


Photo courtesy of E.B. Gilliland

### Saving a National Treasure

by Amy Vanderbilt and Steve Moler

*FHWA and the National Park Service embark on a monumental restoration of Montana's historic Going-to-the-Sun Road.*

(Above) Most of the guard walls along the Going-to-the-Sun Road near Triple Arches were either sheared off or damaged by avalanches and rockslides. Some of the old guardrails are visible in the foreground. As part of the restoration of the road, a new generation of removable steel-backed guardrails, seen in the background, are installed prior to the spring road opening and removed when the road closes in the fall so avalanches can travel over the road without causing damage. Photo: NPS.

The Going-to-the-Sun Road in Montana's Glacier National Park was once described as "the most beautiful piece of mountain road in the world." Those words, spoken by park superintendent Elviud Scovren to several thousand spectators at the road's 1933 dedication ceremony, will continue to ring true for many users now that a historic rehabilitation is underway.

The Sun Road, as some abbreviate it, is an 80.5-kilometer (50-mile), two-lane highway that winds through the heart of the park, up the steep slopes of the Continental Divide, and over 2,026-meter (6,646-foot) Logan Pass. Motorists can experience what some view as the most

spectacular mountain scenery in North America—glacier-carved peaks, deep blue lakes, and lush forests.

The highway itself, built mostly between 1921 and 1937, is considered an engineering marvel by virtue of its designation as a National Civil Engineering Landmark. Most of the 19-kilometer (12-mile) "alpine," or high mountain, section over Logan Pass was built into the sides of near-vertical cliffs using a network of stone-masonry bridges, tunnels, and arches. A series of 130 retaining walls support the roadbed along the steepest sections, and more than 11 kilometers (7 miles) of guard walls and guardrails help guide motorists and keep them on the road. These

22

PUBLIC ROADS • NOVEMBER/DECEMBER • 2006

Photo by Jack Gordon, NPS

Nature  
at its Best



# National Park Service



EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA



## ■ Upcoming Events:

- July 1, 2007 – Apgar Transit Center opens
- July 15, 2008 – 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Going-to-the Sun Road Dedication
- 2010 - Glacier NP Centennial (park estab. May 11, 1910)

Graphic Designed by Dawn Diamond, The Douglas Group for David Evans & Associates

Nature  
at its Best





# National Park Service



**EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA**



Photo courtesy of E.B. Gilliland,  
[www.glacierparkphotography.com](http://www.glacierparkphotography.com)

Learn more about the Going-to-the-Sun Road Project from any of the following:

Throughout Montana,  
Dial 511; Select option  
'5' for 'Glacier Tourist  
Information'



Weekly road work updates are  
available on line and by email  
broadcast at: [www.nps.gov/glac](http://www.nps.gov/glac)

Or call park headquarters:  
406-888-7800

**Nature  
at its Best**



# National Park Service



## Contact Information

- For further information about the Going-to-the-Sun Road Project:

[www.nps.gov/glac](http://www.nps.gov/glac)

- Going-to-the-Sun Road Project:
  - 406-888-5838
  - amy\_vanderbilt@nps.gov

EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA

Nature  
at its Best



# National Park Service



## Questions?



**EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA**

**Nature  
at its Best**

